

# MRS. KING COULD NOT HAVE FIRED FATAL SHOT, SAYS PHYSICIAN

portion of the bullet struck in the right arm and was lodged in the right side of the brain. It was removed by Dr. H. H. Macfarland, who now has it in his possession.

## ANKLE BROKEN BEFORE DEATH, SAYS REPORT.

"The left ankle showed a clear fracture. The examination revealed it was broken before death. All other organs were negative, in healthy normal condition."

Further light on Means's killing was thrown today by the fact that following a conference with the manager of the Chicago hotel where both Means and Mrs. King lived.

The hotel manager said that for months previous to her death Mrs. King was forced to live in Means's room.

Means ordered her to leave or go at his will, he said. In February a man who had been acquainted with Mrs. King for many years called at the hotel and talked with her for several minutes. Following the conversation the caller was approached by Means and told that if a similar conversation happened again he would have Mrs. King and her party removed to another hotel, according to the hotel manager. The party occupied ten rooms at the hotel.

Payment of all hotel bills of the party were made in cash by Means, the manager said. At the first of every month Mrs. King received a check for at least \$1,000 from her bankers. This check, after her incarceration, would be cashed by Means, according to hotel employees.

Mrs. King's brothers returned to their home, apparently indifferent to the fact that those familiar with Mrs. King's life for the past two years believed a great mistake would be made if the verdict of accidental death, rendered by the coroner's jury of Concord, was permitted to stand without further inquiry.

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## CONCORD, N. C., FARMER TELLS A STORY THAT CONTRADICTS MEANS'S

(Continued from first page)

both all looked for her when for some time.

"In what seemed to me about ten minutes I could plainly see the headlights of the auto all the time. The lights remained still for about five minutes and then the car began to move. The lights disappeared for a moment and I knew they were backing up to head out for the main road. I saw the car sped away after the second shot."

"Then I heard the door of the auto slam and saw the lights moving off. Then I heard a second shot. I did not know what to think, but my wife and myself could see the car winding at high speed through the road and then into the main road and off for Concord."

"The moon was late in rising on the night of the shooting and at the time of the trouble was just behind the trees and hills at the rear of the spring. The moon's light came over the top of the trees and left the little knoll and the spring as black as a pit."

Both Dry and his wife are positive in their declarations of what occurred at the spring.

The story of the Drys and other information relating to the purchase of firearms by Means, his display of money of big denominations and scores of other incidents have aroused the people of Concord, and a more searching inquiry is expected.

Mrs. King came to Concord accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Mary Melvin, and Means ten days before the shooting. They took up their residence at the home of Means's father, W. G. Means, one of the best known attorneys in Cabarrus County. Means was amply provided with funds.

**SALESMAN DECLARES MEANS HAD ROLL OF \$1,000 BILLS.** Shortly after the arrival of the party Means went to the City Motor Company to purchase a touring car. He dazed the salesman, it is said, with a roll of \$1,000 bills. The salesman says Means was evidently anxious to show the money, for he counted twenty \$1,000 bills and then drew out the twenty-first. And then, to quote the astonished salesman, "He only was half through the roll."

Means took out a \$500 note and adding a \$1,000 bill to it, he paid for the machine.

For a time Means, or his brother, Afton, drove the car. Later they hired a negro to drive the car. Mrs. King was seen about Concord in the company of members of the Means family and attracted considerable attention because of her fashionable attire and the stories concerning her alleged great wealth.

It is recalled by the townsfolk that she was never alone or with her sister only, but was always accompanied by Gaston Means or his brother, Afton.

The day following the arrival of Mrs. King in Concord Means visited a hardware store and said he wanted to purchase some firearms. He told the clerk he intended to do some target shooting. Means finally selected three weapons, a rifle, a plain revolver and a Colt automatic revolver.

Means told the clerk he wanted to try the arms before completing the purchase. Permission was given and in a couple of days he returned and closed the deal. According to the testimony of Means at the coroner's hearing, it was the automatic revolver, using steel-jacketed bullets, that caused Mrs. King's death.

**NOTHING SAID AT INQUEST ABOUT A SECOND SHOT.** Nothing was brought out at the inquest with regard to a second shot being fired as the party were leaving the scene of the tragedy as now is told by Dry. No satisfactory explanation was made as to why the party went on a target shooting expedition after eight o'clock at night, or why they selected such a dismal, out-of-the-way place as Blackwell's Spring.

Dry went over to the spring the day after the shooting and, in the damp earth, saw where Mrs. King's body had fallen. Near by was a paper bag soaked with blood. The tracks of the auto where they had run up close to the stream and then backed out and again, headed into the abandoned roadway, were clearly cut in the clay.

The spring is located at the head of the little knoll and about twenty feet from it, beside a footpath, is an old hollow tree with two forked branches. The fork of the tree is about four feet from the ground.

The trunk of the tree in the fork is decidedly rounded and the bark slippery. It would not be an ideal place to put a revolver. This forked tree has several bullet holes in it and nearby several discharged shells were found. These empty shells, however, are mostly of the rifle model. A few

shot on the strength of having located a shell left by James C. King, which his wife would receive the reward of \$10,000.

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# HARVARD MEDICAL UNIT BOMBED BY THE GERMANS 15 GERMAN AEROS PUT OUT OF ACTION ON FRENCH FRONT



HARVARD UNIT LEAVING BOSTON

## 30,000 PRISONERS TAKEN BY ITALIANS IN PRESENT DRIVE

Losses of the Austrians Around Gorizia Estimated at 120,000.

UDINE, Italy, Sept. 7.—About 30,000 prisoners have been taken to date by the Italians in their present offensive, while losses of the Austrians are estimated at 120,000.

The Austrian plan now seems to be to abandon counter-attacks and remain on the defensive along the eastern ridge of the Dolomite Plateau, where their positions, such as Cerecek, Draga and Volink, about 1,500 feet high, dominate those occupied by the Italians by several hundred feet, at the same time centering the efforts of their best troops on the Carso in the hope of checking the slow but determined march of the Italians toward Trieste.

The Brestovizza Valley, north of the Hermada, has been transformed into an inferno, with thousands of guns pouring shells from all directions into it while the Austrian infantry desperately is attacking. The Italians have withstood there no less than nine rushes of the infantry from the opposite lines. Sometimes their forces have had to withdraw slightly, but immediately have recovered the lost ground.

From the Hermada south to the sea the Austrian infantry is attacking with the same fierceness and the battle is raging unintermittently. The present effort is considered the maximum one of which the Austrians are capable.

ROME, Sept. 7.—Italian pressure against the Austrians in the region northeast of Gorizia is becoming decisive, the War Office announced today. The enemy has suffered extremely heavy losses for several days in his desperate resistance.

The statement says: "Northeast of Gorizia the enemy, having suffered heavy losses for several days, is making desperate resistance against our pressure, which is continuing decisively."

"Yesterday three officers and 201 men were made prisoners."

"On the Carso the bitter fighting of the past few days has been followed by local actions for retreating the line and by intense bombardments."

"Our airplanes repeatedly destroyed or threw into confusion enemy batteries in the Panovizza wood and the Ternoza forest and communication lines on the Carso."

**TWO CAUGHT AS SLAYERS.** Father and Son Taken at Chester, Pa., for Mulberry Street Murder.

Antonio Pataglia, fifty-eight years old, and his son, Filippo Pataglia, twenty-eight years old, peddlers, of No. 182 Mulberry Street, were arrested at Chester, Pa., this morning by Detectives Carra and Castano, for the murder of Michele Quindone, a saloon keeper, of No. 87 Mulberry Street, on Aug. 25.

In the shooting in the saloon on that date Frank Castagna was also